THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, in K.G. Basin, Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has expanded its pipeline network for transportation of natural gas by completing two pipeline projects of 16.3 kilometres length at a cost of Rs. 12.70 crore.

Seepage of Diesel from Tankers of BPCL

4976. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report captioned "This is drought of another kind; instead of water they get diesel" appeared in the Indian Express dated 22nd April, 2000;

(b) if so, whether any investigations has been made to the probable seepage of diesel from the tankers of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. depot in the area and contaminating the ground water; and

(c) if so, the detail thereof and what action has been taken to prevent such seepage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) On receipt of complaint, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited conducted an investigation. Prima facie, there is no evidence to prove that the oil could seep from Manmad installation outside the boundary wall. The oil company has requested National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) to carry out detailed study.

Production sharing contracts under NELP

4977. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have finalised the production sharing contracts for the 25 oil blocks awarded to various nations and multi-national oil companies under the New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP);

(b) if so, the terms of the contracts and;

(c) the modification introduced under the NELP.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) Out of 25 exploration